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(54) Title: VIRAL ASSAY

(57) **Abstract:** The application relates to an assay method for studying the effect of at least one compound on RN virus replication and transcription comprising the steps of providing a synthetic RN molecule encoding at least a portion of the genome of an RN virus of interest and a copy of a reporter gene; incubating a cell containing the RN molecule with the or each compound and detecting an amount of reporter gene product. Preferably the RNA virus is a paramyxovirus such as human respiratory syncytial virus or avian pneumovirus. The assay may be automated to allow the screening of large numbers of compounds for anti-viral activity. Kits for carrying out the assay method are also disclosed.